

## MRS. SIGSBEE-KERR WINS HER DECREE

Letter Says Rear Admiral's  
Daughter Has Interlocu-  
tory Divorce.

## WILL NOT RETURN TO WASHINGTON

Suit for Absolute Divorce to Be In-  
stituted If Husband  
Comes Back.

Mrs. Mary Sigsbee-Kerr, daughter of Rear Admiral Sigsbee, will not return to her Washington home, following a decision in the New York courts granting her an interlocutory divorce and custody of her four-year-old son.

This announcement was received here today by relatives in a letter from Mrs. Kerr. It also contained the information that if Mr. Kerr returns to this country from London, where he is said to have gone with a model, who is named as co-respondent, proceedings will be instituted against him for an absolute decree.

The verdict terminated a rather sensational romance of exclusive social and official circles. Ten years ago Miss Mary Sigsbee, while studying illustrative art here, met Balfour Kerr, who was then virtually unrecognized as a magazine illustrator. Miss Sigsbee was then a girl of twenty and Mr. Kerr only a few years her senior. They fell in love and within a few months after their first meeting the two tried to get the consent of Admiral and Mrs. Sigsbee to marry. It was refused and they were married secretly.

When Kerr went to New York to take up his work six or eight months later, and the girl to continue her studies, their wedding was announced to relatives and close friends. The admiral's daughter refused all offers of aid, although neither she nor her husband had anything except their talent. They lived quietly, and Mr. Kerr soon became well known to magazine publishers as did Mrs. Kerr. The latter became more widely known as a magazine artist by work in colors, which won her something more than \$15,000 in prizes and sales.

Throughout the court action Mrs. Sigsbee-Kerr has insisted on paying all of her expenses, although her own parents and the parents of her husband have offered to help her.

## Park View Citizens' Officers Elected

Newly elected officers of the Park View Citizens' Association commenced their duties this morning. They are John G. McGrath, president; James I. Wilmetts, vice president; George T. Dietz, secretary; C. A. Atkins, treasurer; O. H. George, financial secretary; George H. Russell, W. R. Loney, and T. W. Goss, members of the executive committee.

The election of officers for the coming year took place last night at the meeting of the association in the Whitney Avenue Christian Church. The nominations had been made at the previous meeting, and the elections last night were more or less perfunctory.

Chief among the questions discussed was the proposed measure to close the "carriers' windows" at the postoffice on Sundays, and the delegation of President McGrath to attend the meeting of the Federation of Citizens' Association, to be held tonight to discuss the removal of James Wood, former superintendent of street cleaning. The association declined to express an opinion on the latter question, and instructed President McGrath to use his discretion in voting tonight.

Several minor resolutions regarding the improvement of the Park View section of the city and the expenses of the association were also passed.

## Seeking \$10,000 Damages From Tractor Company

Damages of \$10,000 for a crushed hand are asked from the Capital Tractor Company by Henry F. Copland, a landscape gardener, in a suit at law filed in the District Supreme Court, through his attorney, Crandall Mackey.

Copland declares his wrist was broken and every bone in his left hand fractured in an accident May 3, 1910, on Calvert street, at the west end of the Rock Creek bridge. He says his hand was placed on the window sill of the car, extending outward, and crushed against an adjacent trolley pole, which, he declares, was placed negligently and carelessly too near the car tracks. He says he is permanently injured and incapacitated to continue his work.

## Golden Wedding Delayed Through Groom's Error

Because the bridegroom unknowingly engaged a negro minister, the marriage of Philip B. Golden, of Bagby, Caroline county, Va., and Miss Bettie Golden, of Alps, Caroline county, Va., was postponed until today.

Miss Golden refused Friday to become Mrs. Golden with a negro minister to perform the ceremony. Golden had secured the marriage license, and the colored pastor with the aid of a "caller" outside the courthouse.

Early this morning the bridegroom appeared at the courthouse, and engaged the Rev. James M. Little to perform the belated ceremony. Although their names are the same Golden and his bride are not related.

## Two Robbery Attempts In Northwest Last Night

Two attempts were made during the night to rob apartment houses in the northwest section of the city, according to reports received by police of the Tenth precinct today.

George E. Cadass, janitor of the Westmoreland, 2122 California avenue, discovered three men endeavoring to effect an entrance through one of the basement windows about 3 o'clock last night. He fired a shot at the intruders, who fled.

About 1:30 o'clock this morning two men appeared at the Highlands, Connecticut and California avenues, and rang the bell at the main entrance.

The men were roughly dressed, and Joseph P. Reading, night clerk, refused to admit them. They went away shaking their fists at him, and saying they would get in some other way. Reading thinks they intended robbing the place.

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## Contract for New Hotel to Cost \$1,500,000 Will Be Let Soon



THE ROYAL PLAZA,  
Work on Which Will Be Begun Next Month.

## WEDS ONE CLAIMANT NOW NO. 2 WILL SUE

Contractor Gives Self as  
Heart Balm, Then An-  
other Appears.

DANVILLE, Ill., March 4.—In order to settle one breach of promise case John Hurling, a wealthy contractor, married Mrs. Pearl La France at Covington, Ind., yesterday, and on his return to this city with his bride was notified that he would be made defendant in another for \$10,000 to be filed by Miss Lillian Rohling, who alleges Hurling jilted her.

Hurling had prepared a home for Miss Rohling, her trousseau had been purchased and the wedding dinner ordered, she asserts. The wedding was to have taken place last Sunday. Saturday Hurling asked to have it postponed until Tuesday. When Tuesday came he asked for another postponement until Wednesday and in the meantime told the bride-elect to have the home thoroughly cleaned. Miss Rohling did as requested, she says, and while she was superintending the work received another telephone message from Hurling postponing the wedding indefinitely.

Thirty minutes later she learned that before the last message came he had been married to Mrs. La France. She immediately consulted attorneys.

Mrs. La France and Hurling had been sweethearts for several years previous to their marriage, but Hurling jilted her about one year ago. She brought suit and was awarded nearly \$10,000. It is said that this money was never paid, but instead Hurling married her.

## Ready to Punish Smoke Violators

In answer to a letter from Ten Eyck Wendell, of 1638 Connecticut avenue, directing attention to complaints made by the Rev. Charles Wood, rector of the Church of the Covenant, concerning smoke from apartment houses, the Commissioners today forwarded to Attorney General Wickham a letter stating that the charges have been brought to the attention of Corporation Counsel Thomas.

The Attorney General is informed that if either Dr. Wood or Mr. Wendell will indicate the exact time of discovering smoke the Corporation Counsel will be required to execute proceedings against the offending parties.

The Commissioners say that during the week of February 11, when complaint was made of alleged violation of the law, the smoke inspector was engaged in making observations in other parts of the city.

## Woman Dies in Hospital, Her Clothing Burned Off

Funeral arrangements for Mrs. Bertha Dorsey, who died in the Emergency Hospital early today from burns received by setting her clothing on fire while burning brush in the yard of her home at East Hyattsville, Md., are being completed this afternoon.

Mrs. Dorsey was brought to Washington in an automobile immediately after the accident yesterday. Her clothing was burned from her body before assistance reached her, and a purse containing \$90, which she had in a pocket of her dress.

## Mrs. Valentine Ruff Files Suit For Divorce

Mrs. Valentine Ruff today filed suit in District Supreme Court for an absolute divorce from Lee A. Ruff, naming a co-respondent. Through her attorney, William E. Ambrose, Mrs. Ruff says she was married August 16, 1909, and separated from her husband a year ago.

## Its Beneficial Effects, Always Buy the Genuine

**SYRUP of FIGS**  
and  
**ELIXIR of SENNA**  
manufactured by the  
**CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.**  
Sold by all leading  
Druggists  
One Size Only, 50¢ a Bottle

For Rheumatism, Lumbago, Sprains, Bruises, Sore Throat, Cold in Chest, Asthma, Bronchitis, Difficult Breathing, Cough in Head and Catarrh. It gives quick relief. 16c, 25c, 50c.

Three thousand cards, with a photograph and description of Richard Van Horn, a clerk in the Department of Agriculture, who has been missing since February 9, 1909, were sent out by the police today. About the same number of circulars were sent out shortly after Van Horn disappeared.

Van Horn, who is twenty-six years old, was recuperating from a severe attack of typhoid fever, and his relatives believe his mind was temporarily affected. A reward of \$100 is offered for information as to his whereabouts.

## Drop in to The New Ebbitt's Dutch Room Tonight

The popularity of the Cafe compelled us to extend its accommodations—and the "Dutch Room" is the result. It's typically finished and furnished—and real Dutch dishes will be served in addition to the regular menus.

You'll find it a novel place to breakfast, to lunch, to dine or to sup.

Entrance from the cafe corridor and through the house lobby

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## SCHOOL OFFICIALS CAN'T DO TREE SUM

Got 50,000 to Plant and Not  
Enough Ground to Hold  
Them.

"Given 50,000 trees, find the ground to plant them."

That is a little problem that is puzzling the school officials today a whole lot more than any sum has troubled a youngster.

They must be planted by school children on Arbor Day. The Board of Education has so ordered.

There are only 140 school buildings in Washington and very small lots about most of them. This gives more than 350 trees to each school. According to the present enrollment, this means each and every white, colored, kindergarten, grade, and high school pupil in Washington must plant a tree.

The Board of Education started the trouble by accepting the gift of that number of seedlings one day from a local mercantile firm without making any particular calculation.

It passed the word along to Superintendent of Schools Stuart to arrange to have them planted by pupils on April 7, in connection with the Arbor Day exercises.

The trees are all catalpas. These are better known as "Indian cigar" trees, so named after the long pendulous which dree from their branches, and which small boys secretly smoke.

"I can think of any reason for the choice of this variety," said Mr. Stuart, "unless it be that the board wanted to war on cigarettes."

## Police and Firemen Get But Fraction of Pension

Owing to the recent decrease in fines in the Police Court, from which its revenues in large measure are derived, the firemen and policemen's pension fund again has suffered a reduction for the month of February. The pensioners were paid today only 40 per cent of the amount of their pensions allowed by law, a total of \$11,900. The remainder will be paid when sufficient funds are derived from Police Court fines to make good the deficiency.

Members of the police and fire departments express great regret at the failure of Congress to pass the bill providing for a policemen and firemen's pension fund, which would insure to the pensioners each month the full amount of their pensions by transferring to the fund from all licenses, other than liquor licenses, a sum sufficient to meet any deficiency.

Under the present system payment has been delayed on several occasions during the last year, resulting in hardship to many who are almost wholly dependent upon their pensions for living expenses.

## Circulars Issued For Clerk Missing a Month

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## OFFICIALS PROBING TROLLEY COLLISION

Three Injured Slightly in  
Accident on Falls Church  
Line.

Officials of the Washington, Arlington and Falls Church electric line are conducting an investigation today to determine the responsibility for a head-on collision in which three persons were slightly injured.

The accident occurred on a grade about a mile this side of Fort Myer yesterday afternoon, when an empty eastbound car crashed into a westbound car filled with passengers on their way to witness the drill at the fort. The crowded car was in charge of Conductor Howell, and a new motorman, whose name could not be obtained at the office of the company this morning. The other car was in charge of Motorman Sam Gray and Conductor Newton.

The westbound car was about half way up the grade when the empty car appeared above the crest of the hill. Both motormen applied their brakes, but the cars came together with considerable force.

The passengers were thrown in a panic, and a woman whose name was not learned wrenched her ankle in jumping from the platform.

Charles C. Grey, of 356 T street northwest, was standing on the front platform. He was cut by flying glass.

Nicholas Deane, head waiter at the Cafe Republic, was also cut on the face and arms.

The top floor will contain banquet halls and concert, reception, and club rooms.

Of the 600 bedrooms about half will have private baths. All rooms will be connected, so that they may be used in suites of whatever size may be desired. Many modern features in connection with the building have been planned.

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## READY TO CONTRACT FOR GIANT HOTEL

Papers Will Be Signed Next  
Week for Royal  
Plaza.

The contract for the construction of the Royal Plaza Hotel, at the southwest corner of E and North Capitol streets, will be awarded next week, so that work may be commenced not later than next month. The new hotel, which will face the Union Station Plaza, will cost about \$1,500,000.

Arrangements have been made with the Washington Loan and Trust Company to underwrite the bonds of the company. There will be an issue of \$25,000 first trust, 6 per cent, twenty-year bonds. The total capitalization is \$1,500,000. The balance is in common stock in shares of \$100 each.

The officers and directors of the company are W. J. Acker, of Washington, president; Jacob A. Mitnacht, of New York, vice president; John B. Hyatt, of New York, secretary; F. C. Blackman, of New York, treasurer; Franklin J. Acker, of Washington; J. J. Darling, of Washington; William H. Force, of New York; and T. C. McNamee, of South Dakota.

Modern Hotel Architecture.

The ground upon which the new hotel is to be erected adjoins that of the now completed Continental Hotel, which is to be opened Tuesday, but occupies the corner of the streets, facing the plaza for 120 feet and E street for 25 feet. It was purchased this winter for \$253,000. Two alleys run in from both streets.

The building will be ten stories in height, and contain 600 bedrooms. The architecture is the most modern type of hotel designing, the officers of the company having made a study of the country's leading hotels before completing their plans.

The first and second stories are to be of Indiana limestone. Face brick is then to extend up to the eighth story, and a mansard roof, with heavy copper cresting, and dormer windows will crown the ninth and tenth stories of the building.

The floor plans show a spacious and beautiful rotunda, surrounded by dining and other public rooms. The central rotunda will be 70 by 100 feet in size, embellished with columns and wall linings of imported marble. It will be lighted through a dome of leaded glass.

Promenade Overlooks Court.

To the left of the rotunda a corridor sixteen feet wide leads to the palm room and main dining room. To the right are lounging, writing, and reading rooms, men's grill, cafe, and bar.

Surrounding the rotunda on three sides will be a miniature forest, a promenade or gallery overlooking the court below. Around this will be the women's parlors, reception rooms, private dining rooms, and several state suites, with decorations and furnishings representing the classic periods.

The basement will contain a rathskeller, fifty by ninety-eight feet. In the center is to be a fountain designed to harmonize with the furnishings of the room. There will also be the barber shop and Turkish baths for both men and women.

Of the 600 bedrooms about half will have private baths. All rooms will be connected, so that they may be used in suites of whatever size may be desired. Many modern features in connection with the building have been planned.

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